

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 2914

AMEMBASSY MADRID

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USLOSACLANT

USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T USNATO 2125

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: P/M. MCAP, MARR, MOPS, PFOR, SP, NO, NATO

SUBJECT: DPC MEETING MAY 2, 1973 - STATEMENT BY NORWEGIAN PERMREP

THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF LETTER TO BE SENT BY THE NORWEGIAN PERMREP TO THE SYG AND DPC PERMREPS AS READ TO DPC AT THEIR MAY 2 MEETING REAFFIRMING NORWEGIAN OBJECTION TO VISIT TO A SPANISH PORT BY NAVOCFORMED.

EGIN TEXT:

MY DEAR SECRETARY GENERAL,

I REFER TO THE DISCUSSION DURING THE MEETING OF THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE ON APRIL 18 OF THE PROPOSAL FOR A PORT VISIT TO SPAIN BY NAVOCFORMED. DURING THAT MEETING I PROMISED TO COME BACK TO THE NORWEGIAN VIEW ON THIS QUESTION AFTER THE EASTER HOLIDAYS.

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I HAVE NOW BEEN INSTRUCTED TO INFORM YOU THAT MY GOVERNMENT - AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE STORTING - HAS REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT NORWAY MUST MAINTAIN ITS ATTITUDE AS

TO THE PROPOSED PORT VISIT TO SPAIN IN CONNECTION WITH THE ACTIVATION OF AND EXERCISING OF NAVOCFORMED IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. I HAVE, HOWEVER, BEEN ASKED TO RE- EMPHASIZE THAT THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT FULLY UNDERSTANDS THE PROBLEMS ON THE SOUTHERN FLANK AND THE MILITARY AND STRATEGIC REASONS FOR ACTIVATING AND EXERCISING THIS FORCE AS FREQUENTLY AS POSSIBLE. IT HAS, HOWEVER, NOT BEEN POSSIBLE FOR MY GOVERNMENT TO DISREGARD THE UNFORTUNATE POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS WHICH SUCH A VISIT UNDOUBTEDLY WOULD HAVE AND WHICH I HAVE ALREADY OUTLINED DURING TWO MEETINGS OF THE DPC. IT HAS BEEN UNAVOIDABLE FOR MY GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL IN A WIDER POLITICAL CONTEXT AND AS A FIRST STEP TO ENCOURAGE A POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NATO AND SPAIN.

FURTHERMORE, THE PURELY MILITARY AND OPERATIONAL VALUE OF SUCH A VISIT TO SPAIN SEEMS TO BE RATHER LIMITED.

NEEDLESS TO SAY, THIS HAS BEEN A MOST DIFFICULT DECISION FOR MY GOVERNMENT. IT HAS, HOWEVER, NOTED THAT SOME OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES SHARE SOME OF ITS PREOCCUPATIONS, ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE NOT BEEN PREPARED TO DRAW THE SAME CONCLUSIONS AS NORWAY.

FINALLY I SHOULD LIKE TO MENTION THAT MY GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION THE FACT THAT THE PROPOSED VISIT WOULD HAVE TAKEN PLACE AT A TIME WHEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAVE TAKEN AN IMPORTANT AND CONSTRUCTIVE INITIATIVE CONCERNING THE FUTURE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE. THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CONCERNED LEST THE SPECULATIONS AND UNCERTAINTIES WHICH A NAVAL VISIT TO SPAIN WILL CAUSE IN POLITICAL CIRCLES AND IN PUBLIC OPINION, HAVE AN UNFORTUNATE INFLUENCE ON THE IMPORTANT
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DEBATE WHICH WE ALL DO HOPE WILL START AS A RESULT OF THE US INITIATIVE.

A COPY OF THIS LETTER HAS BEEN SENT TO ALL MY COLLEAGUES ON THE DPC.
YOURS SINCERELY

ROLF BUSCH

END TEXT. RUMSFELD

SECRET
NMAFVVZCZ
<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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To: STATE
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